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US resolution gives Egypt central role in post-war Gaza

• Russia and China expected to abstain as UN Security Council votes on American draft resolution • Pakistan among nations that have 'signed off' on US draft • World Bank role sought to set up trust fund to finance reconstruction phase • 'Reformed' Palestinian Authority billed to take over administrative functions after eventual Israeli withdrawal • Washington commits to providing pathway to 'Palestinian state'

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Egypt will have a central role in post-war Gaza, being the only member of the Muslim bloc with a direct say in the formation of the proposed Board of Peace (BOP) and the shape of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) that will secure the war-ravaged enclave following an eventual Israeli withdrawal.

According to the draft of the resolution tabled before the UN Security Council by Washington on Monday, Egypt and Israel — alongside the BOP — will have a final say on how the proposed international force operates.

A flurry of activity is expected during Monday's UNSC sitting, which is scheduled to vote on the US-sponsored resolution. The UNSC session, scheduled for 5pm New York time (3am Pakistan time) was yet to begin at the time of going to press.

Earlier, a senior UN diplomat told reporters that Russia has not yet decided whether it will submit its draft resolution on creating an international force for Gaza, although it appears unlikely that they will put it to a vote.

The diplomat noted that the Russian draft, which competes with the American resolution, makes no reference to the Peace Council that would be established under the US proposal and chaired by President Donald Trump.

At UN Headquarters, the prevailing view is that the Russian draft resolution is unlikely to move forward.

The main reason is that the American draft has strong support from Arab and other Islamic countries, as well as backing from European, Latin American and African states.

Arab and other Islamic governments, along with the Palestinian Authority, have already issued public statements supporting the American text, while China and Russia do not see a need to oppose the united stance of the Arab and Muslim bloc.

Pakistan has joined the Arab and Islamic statement welcoming and supporting the American draft. Algeria has done the same, although both Pakistan and Algeria had initially wanted a clear roadmap for a future Palestinian state.

Both China and Russia are expected to abstain, allowing the American draft resolution to pass.

Transitional governance

The resolution circulated among Security Council members — which has undergone at least three rounds of amendments over the past week — seeks "a credible pathway

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S. Africa says 'suspicious' flights from Israel an 'agenda to cleanse Gaza': Page 11

Israeli settlers' outpost dismantled as Netanyahu slams 'extremists': Page 12

POLICEMEN restrain a demonstrator attempting to damage the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of 'fugitive' ex-PM Sheikh Hasina, after she was sentenced by a tribunal to be hanged for crimes against humanity.—AFP

B'desh asks India to extradite Hasina after death sentence

• Court hands down capital punishment to ex-PM and former interior minister in absentia • New Delhi says it has 'noted verdict'

DHAKA: Bangladesh on Monday demanded India extradite ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, hours after she was sentenced to hang for crimes against humanity.

Hasina's autocratic rule was backed by New Delhi, and the 78-year-old fled to India after her ouster in a mass uprising in August 2024, fraying relations between the two neighbours. She has been in hiding ever since.

Earlier in the day, a court in Dhaka sentenced Hasina as well as former interior minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death in absentia, after being found guilty of crimes against humanity over a deadly crackdown against last year's student-led uprising.

"All the... elements constituting crimes against humanity have been fulfilled," judge Golam Mortuza Mozumder read to the court.

The former leader was found guilty on three counts: incitement, order to kill, and inaction to prevent the atrocities, the judge said.

"We have decided to inflict her with only one sentence — that is, sentence of death."

Crowds waved the national flag and celebrated on the streets of the capital.

Ex-police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who was in court and had pleaded guilty, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Hasina, who was assigned a state-appointed lawyer for the trial, called the verdict "biased and politically motivated" in a statement issued from hiding in India.

"Its guilty verdict against me was a foregone conclusion," Hasina said.

She can appeal against her sentence — if she is arrested or surrenders, her defence lawyer Md Amir Hossain said.

Shamsi Ara Zaman, whose photojournalist son Tahir Zaman Priyo was killed during last year's protests, said she was "satisfied" with the death sentences but "dismayed" that the ex-police chief was given only five years in jail.

India's response

India's foreign ministry said that it had "noted the verdict" of Hasina.

"India remains committed to

Sheikh Hasina verdict: Editorial on Page 6

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AJK gets its fourth PM in as many years

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: Chaudhry Anwarul Haq was sent packing on Monday after a vote of no-confidence against him sailed through with 36 votes, paving the way for PPP's Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore to take over as the fourth prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in the last four years.

The vote was held in a Legislative Assembly session convened specifically for the purpose, with Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar presiding, after Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, one of the movers, read out the no-trust resolution.

Aside from the speaker, all 28 PPP lawmakers — including PTI 'forward bloc' members who had recently joined the PPP — were in attendance. Of the nine PML-N members, only Ms Nisara Abbasi was absent.

On the opposition benches, only two of the five PTI legislators — regional president Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi and Leader of the Opposition Khawaja Farooq Ahmed

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ON OTHER PAGES

Pakistan and Zimbabwe face off today

Pakistan and Zimbabwe will play the first T20I of the tri-series today at Rawalpindi, with captain Salman Ali Agha supporting coach Mike Hesson's focus on all-rounders. Addressing a press conference, the Pakistani captain said the team's morale is high after winning the T20 series against South Africa, and this upcoming series is crucial ahead of next year's T20 World Cup.
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Local govt bill to return as 28th Amendment: MQM

• Mustafa Kamal claims nationwide support for party's draft, cites Punjab Assembly's unanimous endorsement • Alleges Karachi suffered Rs3tr losses in 17 years • Sharjeel Memon terms allegations baseless, says party's politics has 'faded' • Rana Sanaullah says 28th Amendment can be introduced

By Imran Ayub and Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has claimed that its proposed constitutional amendment, aimed at empowering local governments, will now be advanced as the 28th Amendment, marking what the party calls a "national, not merely Karachi-centric" reform initiative which would materialise in the coming months.

Addressing a press conference at the party's Bahadurabad headquarters on Monday, senior MQM-P leader and federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal said the party's long-standing movement for devolution had now gained unprecedented nationwide support, citing a unanimous Punjab Assembly resolution endorsing the party's proposed amendment.

He said the draft amendment is the result of "years of research, consultations, and dialogue" with political parties, scholars, NGOs, journalists, lawyers and civil society. "Today, Punjab has endorsed, word for word, the same amendment we drafted. This shows our struggle has resonated across Pakistan," he said.

Flanked by senior leaders Anis Kaimkhani, Senator Faisal Subzwari, parliamentary members and a large number of workers, Mr Kamal said the MQM-P had joined the federal coalition in 2024 "not for ministries,

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FCC kicks off proceedings amid space constraints

• Two more judges sworn in • Seven courtrooms arranged on IHC floors • Three benches hear several cases on first working day

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: After the swearing-in of two more judges, the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) finally commenced operations on Monday, hearing a number of cases within the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises.

The day began with the oath-taking ceremony of Justice Rozi Khan Barrech and Justice Arshad Hussain Shah inside the conference room on the ground floor of the IHC building on Constitution Avenue. The oath was administered by FCC Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan, bringing the court's existing strength to seven judges.

Earlier, the FCC chief justice had told the media that the total sanctioned strength of the court would be 13 judges. Seven courtrooms have been arranged for FCC judges on different floors of the IHC building.

After the ceremony, the formal proceedings commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran at the main FCC courtroom situated on the first floor. Since the FCC's arrangements are not yet complete, IHC Courtroom No. 2 has been converted into the main courtroom of the FCC chief justice, with a printed A-4 page affixed at the

SHC asked to strike down 27th Amendment: Page 3

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